

SOUTHEASTERLY RANGE EXTENSION FOR *PROABLEPHARUS TENUIS* (SQUAMATA: SCINCIDAE) IN QUEENSLAND. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 49(2): 520. 2004.- Three species of *Proablepharus* are known from northern and western Australia. The genus is characterised by its small body size, short, pentadactyl limbs, and an immovable eyelid that is partially fused to form a permanent spectacle (Cogger, 2000). *Proablepharus tenuis* typically has a coppery-brown to olive-grey dorsal surface with a sprinkling of fine dark spots (Wilson & Swan, 2003).

This poorly known species is thought to occur in the sub-humid and semi-arid regions of Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland (WAM, 2003). In Queensland, Cogger (2000) described the range of *P. tenuis* as including most areas surrounding the Gulf of Carpentaria north to approximately Kowanyama and extending south to around Georgetown. Wilson & Swan (2003) described a similar distribution except that they showed the species continuing east to approximately Marceba and south almost to Aramac. This is similar to the range documented in the Western Australian Museum's database (FaunaBase), which contains a record of *P. tenuis* from the Aramac region (22°56'59"S, 145°40'59") (WAM, 2003).

The species is typically found under leaf-litter and fallen timber in dry sclerophyll forests, and savannah woodlands with a spinifex understorey (Cogger, 2000; Wilson & Swan, 2003).

In 2001 and 2002 a systematic fauna survey was conducted at both Cudmore National Park and Nairana National Park respectively. Vertebrate fauna were surveyed using a combination of Elliott and pit fall traps, mist nets, harp traps, bat triplines, spotlighting, active searching and bird censuses

over a period of 10 days at each location. A total of 165 vertebrate species were found during the survey at Cudmore National Park and 183 species were recorded at Nairana. Both surveys found several specimens of *P. tenuis*. The species was predominantly caught using pit fall traps at Cudmore National Park: 22°53'11"S, 146°16'51"E; 22°52'44"S, 146°19'47"E; 22°58'07"S, 146°22'52"E; and at 21°41'59"S, 146°55'36"E on Nairana National Park. The species was found in a range of different vegetation communities including tall eucalypt forests, open woodlands and heathlands with a spinifex understorey. These records represent a southeasterly range extension for the species. Six specimens were submitted to the Queensland Museum (QMJ 77062, QMJ76764, QMJ76758, QMJ76754, QMJ76744, and QMJ78747).

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